

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Edward “Jack”
Norman, Sr.

WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Mr. John Edward “Jack” Norman, Sr., a highly respected attorney and fine Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable observers have said that Mr. Norman was undoubtedly one of the most celebrated criminal lawyers in the South, and one of the greatest attorneys of his kind in the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, Jack Norman began his colorful life in South Nashville, one of five children of Charles and Bertha Norman; attended the public schools of Nashville; and worked his way through Vanderbilt Law School; and

WHEREAS, in 1926, Mr. Norman embarked upon a dynamic and highly successful career in the legal field; one that would earn him the reputation as a fierce defender of “underdogs” and as an old-fashioned, theatrical courtroom performer; and

WHEREAS, this brilliant attorney was known for taking his clients’ causes as his own and was often quoted as saying, “When I am your lawyer, I stand in your shoes. I’ll knock down anyone who tries to run over you.” Other lawyers in town would close their offices to go see the man they often heard say, “There’s just one side to a lawsuit - my side”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman won acclaim for the legendary courtroom techniques for which he will long be remembered: his fiery, yet eloquent words and amazing powers of persuasion; his genius for reading jurors and ability to retain their undivided attention; and even his trademark cigar which he was known to use as a distraction during opposing testimony; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his sagacity as a criminal lawyer, Mr. Norman was noted for his success as a special attorney assisting the district attorney general's office in prosecuting criminals and for his acumen and confidence in cases seeking civil damages; and

WHEREAS, this celebrated attorney, although aggressive in the courtroom, was kind, considerate, and extremely generous throughout his ninety years; and for many of those years he gave unreservedly of his time and talents to make the community he loved a better place; and

WHEREAS, his involvement with the charitable and philanthropic Masonic and Shrine circles was extensive, as he was potentate of the Al Menah Shrine Temple where he initiated the annual Shrine Circus and served as its producer for thirty years; and, appropriately, Mr. Norman was awarded the distinction of 33rd Degree Mason for his outstanding service; and

WHEREAS, as a strong believer in moral virtue and a spiritual man, Mr. Norman said, "Faith in God is probably man's greatest gift"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman became known as a connoisseur of foreign cultures later in his illustrious life; venturing to a host of foreign countries and avidly studying each; and

WHEREAS, this well-traveled and well-read gentleman elected to share his knowledge of culture, history, politics, and theology with others; and from time to time he authored popular articles about his favorite subjects for the Nashville Banner and The Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Norman's Nashville Banner column, "The Passing of the Nashville I Knew", became a favorite of locals, as he reminisced about the city he had known since 1904; and

WHEREAS, for nearly sixty years, Mr. Norman shared his many joys and triumphs with his beloved wife, Carrie Sneed Norman, until her death in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Norman took pleasure in raising their five successful children: Jack Norman, Jr., a Nashville attorney; Seth Norman, a criminal court judge in Nashville; Dr. Robert Norman, a retired oral surgeon; Julian Norman, an architect and resident of Dickson; and Carolyn Tune, owner of Music Country Volvo in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, although Jack Norman has relinquished this life for a far better existence, the legacy of his courage and perseverance, tempered with intellect and considerable talent, will live forever in the history of our great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we pause to mourn the passing of John Edward "Jack" Norman, Sr., while we also celebrate the life of this great man as one of the most memorable Tennesseans of the twentieth century.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences to Mr. Norman's family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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